

Docket No.: 7539CO2

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CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of preparing a synthetic fuel from run of mine coal comprising applying to the coal an aqueous emulsion of one or more ~~reactive polymers and~~ thoroughly mixing the coal to yield a complete reaction of the coal with the reactive polymers, wherein the reactive polymers are selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers, ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymers, poly(acrylic acid), poly(vinyl alcohol), vinyl alcohol/vinyl acetate copolymers, poly(vinyl acetate), vinyl acetate/acrylic acid copolymers, poly(vinyl acetate/acrylic acid/ethylene), acrylic acid/acrylamide copolymers and poly(acrylamide) and thoroughly mixing the coal to yield a complete reaction of the coal with the ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymers.
2. (cancelled).
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the aqueous emulsion further comprises one or more diluents.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the diluents are selected from the group consisting of water, alcohols, ketones and carboxylic acids and esters.
5. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the diluent is water.
6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the diluent is alcohol.
7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, propylene glycol and glycerine.
8. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the alcohol is diethylene glycol.

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9. (cancelled)

10. (original) A synthetic fuel prepared according to the method of claim 1.